

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING RETIRING STAFF OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, October 1, 1999, I celebrated a final day of work with twenty-seven members of the Architect of the Capitol staff from the House Office Buildings. Of the twenty-seven employees leaving us, eighteen are my constituents. These valued employees are retiring under a buyout program developed earlier this year by the Architect of the Capitol and approved by the House Administration Committee, of which I am the Ranking Member. The buyout program has provided excellent retirement opportunities, which at the same time creating new avenues of advancement for the staff of the Architect who continue with us.

The staffers retiring today have an average of twenty-nine years of service each, and together, they have provided 798 years of service. The Architect of the Capitol fields a work force that is indispensable to us, and often labors unnoticed in the shadows, or more aptly, in the basement and tunnels of these buildings. Like public employees everywhere, they do some of the toughest jobs under the most adverse conditions in the country. They do it always with smiles and friendly greetings, and a job well done. These employees were never looking to get rich and they do not do it for public acclaim. They do their jobs and they do them well because they know we all rely on them. Lyndon Johnson understood this. He said of public service "so much of what we achieve as people depends upon the caliber and the character of the civil service."

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you on behalf of all my colleagues, both Democrat and Republican. Farewell to those employees leaving us today, we will miss them and we thank them for their contribution to our daily lives. They are: Lewis Bowles, Jr., John Callahan, Jr., Douglas Colbert, Ernest Cook, Margaret Donnelly, Lillie Drayton, Alvin Gayan, Hubert Gray, David Ingram, Solomon Landers, Earl Lemings, Carroll Lumpkins, Jr., Norman Lynch, James Mattingly, Luke Mattingly, William McWilliams, Bernard Merritt, Robert Merryman, Walter Montgomery, Allen Nichols, Talmadge Nowden, Anthony Pilkerton, James Quade, Robert Quade, Raymond Stager, George Stein, and Leonard Vanryswick.

"FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE" TO THE GREATER DUNDALK COM- MUNITY

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, on October 14, 1949, twenty-five members of the Dundalk

community formed a new organization known as the Optimist Club of Dundalk, sponsored by the Optimist Club of Baltimore. They established their motto as "Friend of the Boy" and began to sponsor sports programs, oratorical contests, and archery programs in the schools to honor the male students that excelled in academics and athletics.

In 1950, The Dundalk Optimist Foundation, Inc. was formed to ensure the planned and approved programs were financially assured, and to plan for the construction of a building they could call their own. Through the years, the club grew in size and effectiveness. The club became a Century Club in 1969, and earned the District Achievement Award for the first time. Over the years, the programs began serving girls and the motto was changed to "Friends of Youth." In January of 1988, the Optimist Club membership voted to allow women to be eligible for membership, and the Club continued to expand and increase their outreach in the community. The dream of a building was realized in 1995, with the opening of their Clubhouse at 4528 Northpoint Boulevard in Dundalk.

Today, the Optimist Club of Dundalk, Inc. continues to provide wonderful opportunities for the community's youth to learn, grow, and excel both in academics and athletics. I commend this organization for these first fifty years of excellent and dedicated service, and I join in looking forward to the next fifty.

PROFILES OF SUCCESS HONORS MR. ED DELCI

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding fellow Arizonan who is an exemplary role model for Arizona and the nation, Mr. Ed Delci.

Ed Delci is a committed and tenacious individual who recently received the Exemplary Leadership Award at Valley del Sol's Annual Profiles of Success Leadership Awards in Phoenix. Valle's award ceremony is the premiere Latino recognition event in Arizona each year that acknowledges Arizona's leaders and their contributions.

As an academic advisor at Arizona State University, Ed has dedicated himself to helping young people succeed in their pursuits of higher education. He inspires young Hispanics to succeed in their studies, graduate from ASU and maintain an active involvement in their community. I believe he has positively impacted the graduate rate of Latinos at ASU.

He also has been the principal advisor of ASU's MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos de Aztlan) chapter for many years. Due to Ed's dedication, the group has become a vibrant and forceful organization that received the Student Organization of 1999 and Social Conscience of 1998 and 1999 awards. At

ASU, he also is involved in the Cesar Chavez Leadership Institute for Youth and the ASU Concilio, a student-led council of Hispanic students.

But his work does not end off campus. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Ed is one of the hardest working Latino "activistas," or activist in Arizona who truly exemplifies the "servant leader" concept. Originally from Chandler, Ariz., he galvanized the community to fight against the city of Chandler for the unfair detainment of Mexican-American citizens by city police. In 1998, Ed organized the Chandler Coalition for Civil and Human Rights to help Chandler residents explore issues around immigration and to launch a lawsuit against the city government. He has also championed for issues significant to the Latino community as part of the Arizona Hispanic Community Forum. In addition, he works with the Arizona Friends of the United Farm Workers and Centro de Amistad in Guadalupe, Ariz.

Not only is Ed a tireless worker in education and civil rights issues, he spends many hours volunteering for voter registration and political campaigns. He leads by example, working hard in any type of activity that is needed, such as setting up sound systems, driving and talking to voters, walking door-to-door to obtain petition signatures, setting up tables and chairs and putting them away. He is not afraid of doing the "dirty work" when needed.

As you can see, Ed leads by example. He is truly an outstanding individual who deserves to be recognized. Therefore I ask you to please join me in thanking my friend Ed Delci and wishing him continued success.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD MIZE, A TRUE COMPETITOR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this moment to recognize a man who has proven himself as one of the most successful mountaineers of our time. This man, who is now 63, is still competing and winning. He is a dedicated individual whose hard work deserves to be honored.

Richard Mize has always had a love for skiing. At Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado he took advantage of every opportunity to go skiing. It paid off when he was awarded the 1956 Don Johnson Memorial Trophy, which is given to the outstanding American skier in the NCAA cross country championships. He also became a two time, All-American cross country skier. Since college, Richard has gone on to accomplish feats that are equally, if not more, impressive. He competed in the World Biathlon Championship in 1958 and 1959. Also, in 1960 he earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic Biathlon Team, where he placed 21st in the inaugural year of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the event in the Olympics. Since 1983, Richard Mize has competed on the Masters Circuit and, in every year since 1988 he has earned at least one first place finish in the U.S. Masters Division. In 1988, at the World and U.S. Championships in Lake Placid, New York he won the World Championship in the 20K freestyle and 10K classic races. As you can see, this man is a fierce competitor—his accolades however, do not stop there. Richard has won his age group seven times in the last nine years at the Tour of Anchorage 50K Freestyle competition.

Mr. Speaker, there are few people in our time that have accomplished so many amazing feats. Richard has done this and he has continued to do this well into his later years. So it is with this that I say congratulations to this man on his induction into the Mountaineer Sports Hall of Fame.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
MURIEL DARLENE GIST WINGATE

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize and celebrate the life of Muriel Darlene Gist Wingate, a wonderful and loving mother and grandmother, who for more than 25 years served with distinction as a loyal and outstanding assistant to internationally acclaimed Howard University Hospital oncologist and general surgeon Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr.

Muriel, or "Meme" as she was affectionately known to her family and many friends, passed away on Tuesday, June 8, 1999. Kind, patient, and always ready with a reassuring word, Muriel was the person to whom hundreds of Dr. Leffall's patients turned in times of difficulty. She was the glue that helped many of them hold sway while dealing with troubling medical diagnoses.

For the hundreds of residents and medical students who secured a coveted spot on Dr. Leffall's rotation, she was the surrogate mother, the woman who provided constant encouragement and assurance that with determination, perseverance, stamina, and the same trademark sense of humor which had endeared her to so many and helped her too during periods of difficulty, they would indeed make it through their medical school and/or surgical residency program. As a show of how much she was loved, many of the young doctors and medical students whom she supervised while working with Dr. Leffall, returned to pay their respects at the service celebrating her life, which was held on Thursday, June 17, 1999, at Hemingway Memorial A.M.E. Church in Chapel Oaks, Maryland.

"Miss Wingate," as she was respectfully and fondly known to so many of Dr. Leffall's patients, was born in Washington, D.C., on November 11, 1941, to Ruby N. Gist and the late Sherwood Gist. She graduated from Fairmont Heights High School in 1959 and set course on a career in the field of health care. She loved to travel to exotic places, and often regaled others with stories about her adventures. She had a smile that simply illuminated the room, and an eternally optimistic outlook that would become an important and essential asset in her work with Dr. Leffall's patients.

Muriel Darlene Gist Wingate was beloved by many, but cherished most of all by her lovely

daughters, Joy Arminta Diggs and Kelly Lynn Wingate, and granddaughter, Camille Nicole Wingate. Her untimely passing also leaves to mourn her loving mother, Mrs. Ruby N. Gist; three sisters: Shirley A. Courtney, Elaine T. Johnson, and Janiero L. Dougans; three brothers: Dennis, Milton, and Gregory, and a host of other relatives.

Mr. Speaker, to have the love, admiration, and respect of your family, friends, and colleagues, is, I believe the ultimate measure of success. Muriel Wingate was blessed with all of these. I am proud to have the occasion to celebrate her memory with my colleagues, and ask that you join me in extending our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, and colleagues on the passing of a truly exceptional woman.

RECOGNIZING COMMANDER
ARTHUR J. OHANIAN

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commander Arthur J. Ohanian, United States Navy. Commander Ohanian will retire after 20 years of distinguished and superior service to our country.

In his most recent position he served as the Manpower and Personnel analyst for the Programming, Planning and Development Branch, Chief of Naval Operations Staff. A P-3 Instructor Pilot, Commander Ohanian served in a number of leadership positions in the fleet, including the Commander Naval Education and Training Mobil Training Team. He also served in a number of different positions within squadrons deployed in the Mediterranean.

Commander Ohanian is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am proud to extend my best wishes to Commander Arthur J. Ohanian. May you continue the success you have enjoyed and thank you for your faithful service from a grateful Nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1906. H.R. 1906 contains funding for many vitally important programs in agriculture. This bill provides appropriations for those programs that were authorized in the 1996 farm bill. Furthermore, this bill provides important funding for the foundation of agriculture research. Continued research will provide answers that enable farmers to continue to improve efficiency in providing food for our table.

Specifically the bill includes funds for the National Center for Peanut Competitiveness, a

program that establishes a broad-based research program directed toward assuring the competitiveness of U.S. peanuts in the world market. Also included is funding to allow the University of Georgia to research tomato spotted wilt virus, a plant virus that has become a major yield-limiting constraint on many important food crops in South Georgia. The bill also contains funds for peanut allergy collaborative research as well as onion research.

In addition, our farmers have once again faced another disastrous year. Farmers who were fortunate to have a crop are faced with the lowest prices in decades. Adverse weather conditions have resulted in another disaster. This bill also contains disaster assistance for farmers who have suffered yet another crop failure. My farmers cannot afford to wait any longer on relief.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that dairy and sanction provisions were not included in the current appropriations bill. The funds appropriated in the bill will aid farmers in surviving another year of adverse weather conditions and low commodity. Peanut and tobacco farmers will all receive aid in the form of market assistance payments, market loss payments or direct payments. The bill also includes funds to replenish the step two cotton program. In addition fruit and vegetable growers along with dairy and livestock producers will receive assistance from this package and other essential measures that are critical to our producers.

This bill is not a cure all. However, it is imperative that we don't delay this funding any longer. I urge all my colleagues to support passage of conference report.

A SALUTE TO BOSTON LAW
SCHOOL

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, My colleagues, Messrs. DELAHUNT, CAPUANO, SCOTT and I submit the following proclamation:

Whereas, Boston College Law School was officially founded on September 26, 1929, in the Lawyer's Building at 11 Beacon Street with a class of 22 students, one full-time faculty and three part-time faculty members.

Whereas, after spending nearly 25 years in downtown Boston, the Law School continued its march toward the Heights by joining the Boston College campus community in 1954 at St. Thomas More Hall, under the leadership of the Rev. William J. Kenealy, S.J., the Dean who was charged with building a law school for a new era.

Whereas, it was Rev. Robert F. Drinan, S.J., the sixth dean of the Law School and later member of the United States House of Representatives from Massachusetts, whose foresight and indefatigable spirit brought about the Law School's rise in statute and

transformation from a regional to a highly-respected national law school.

Whereas, Dean Richard G. Huber built upon these traditions in expanding the law school faculty and program, and in 1975 secured the eventual move of the Law School to its current site on the Newton campus, providing urgently needed space for the educational component as well as for students and faculty offices and meeting facilities.

Whereas, under the leadership of Deans Daniel R. Coquillette and Aviam Soifer, the University embarked on a campaign to build a new physical plant for the Law School on its present site, which facility would reflect the breadth and statute of the law school's programs, and which would allow for the full integration of technology in legal teaching and research.

Whereas, we also celebrate a revered member of the Law School faculty, Professor Emil Slizewski, who this year retires from his teaching responsibilities at Boston College Law School after 56 years of distinguished service to the Law School and the legal profession.

Whereas, on October 8, 1999, members of the Law School and the Boston College communities join together in celebration of an institution which has launched the careers of illustrious government officials and leaders in the profession, and which has inspired an unwavering commitment to social justice among its esteemed graduates. After 70 years of academic excellence, students, administrators, alumni and faculty join together today to celebrate the opening of a new academic wing at Boston College Law School.

Now, therefore, I, Congressman Edward J. Markey, hereby request that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in saluting Boston College Law School as it celebrates 70 years of excellence in legal education.

**PROFILES OF SUCCESS HONORS
MS. LORRAINE LEE**

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to draw attention to the accomplishments of a woman who has long been an activist for all Arizonans and who has is at the ready when it comes to championing for the Latino community and the issues that affect them. The woman of whom I speak is Ms. Lorraine Lee, a good friend and an invaluable community leader in southern Arizona.

Ms. Lee has been the vice president of Chicanos Por La Causa in Tucson for the past 15 years. She is a much esteemed leader who has worked diligently on empowerment, self-sufficiency and goal attainment for not only members of the Tucson community but, Chicanos nationwide.

Recently, Lorraine was recognized at Valle del Sol's Annual Profiles of Success Leadership Awards. Valle's award ceremony is the premiere Latino recognition event in Arizona each year that acknowledges Arizona's leaders and their contributions.

Lorraine received the Special Recognition Award for her efforts in spearheading the anit-Unz initiative in southeastern Arizona and nationwide. This initiative is named after the man who started the movement against bilingual education in California. In Tucson, Unz is trying to bring the same movement to Arizona.

But in Tucson, the birthplace of the first official bilingual education program, Lorraine has initiated efforts to raise social awareness in ethnically diverse segments of the community. She is currently working with several community representatives in organizing a coalition to ensure that the Unz initiative does not appear on this year's upcoming ballot. This effort consists of educating citizens from the public and private sector, including politicians and youth, about the importance of bilingual education programs.

But beyond the issue of bilingual education, Ms. Lee has been a well-respected activist in Arizona who does not shy from leadership roles and is ready to take on new challenges to strengthen the Latino community.

That is why I ask you to join me in paying tribute to my friend Lorraine Lee and in wishing her great success.

**QUALITY CARE FOR THE
UNINSURED ACT OF 1999**

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as an MD, I know that when I advise on medical legislation I may be tempted to allow my emotional experience as a physician to influence my views, but nevertheless I am acting the role of legislator and politician. The MD degree grants no wisdom as to the correct solution to our managed care mess. The most efficient manner to deliver medical services, as it is with all goods and other services, is determined by the degree the market is allowed to operate. Economic principles determine efficiency of markets, even the medical care market; not our emotional experiences dealing with managed care.

Contrary to the claims of many advocates of increased government regulation of health care, the problems with the health care system do not represent market failure, rather they represent the failure of government policies which have destroyed the health care market. In today's system, it appears on the surface that the interest of the patient is in conflict with rights of the insurance companies and the Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). In a free market this cannot happen. Everyone's rights are equal and agreements on delivering services of any kind are entered into voluntarily, thus satisfying both sides. Only true competition assures that the consumer gets the best deal at the best price possible, by putting pressure on the providers. Once one side is given a legislative advantage, in an artificial system, as it is in managed care, trying to balance government dictated advantages between patient and HMOs is impossible. The differences cannot be reconciled by more government mandates which will only makes the problem worse. Because we are trying to patch up an unworkable system, the impasse in Congress should not be a surprise.

No one can take a back seat to me regarding the disdain I hold for the HMOs' role in managed care. This entire unnecessary level of corporatism that rakes off profits and undermines care is a creature of government inter-

ference in health care. These non-market institutions and government could have only gained control over medical care through a collusion among organized medicine, politicians, and the HMO profiteers, in an effort to provide universal health care. No one suggests that we should have "universal" food, housing, TV, computer and automobile programs and yet many of the "poor" do much better getting these services through the marketplace as prices are driven down through competition.

We all should become suspicious when it is declared we need a new "Bill of Rights" such as a Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, or now a Patient's Bill of Rights. Why don't more Members ask why the original Bill of Rights is not adequate in protecting all rights and enabling the market to provide all services. If over the last fifty years we had a lot more respect for property rights, voluntary contracts, state jurisdiction and respect for free markets, we would not have the mess we're facing today in providing medical care.

The power of special interests influencing government policy has brought us this managed care monster. If we pursue the course of more government management—in an effort to balance things—we're destined to make the problem much worse. If government mismanagement, in an area that the government should not be managing at all, is the problem, another level of bureaucracy—no matter how well intended—cannot be helpful. The law of unintended consequences will prevail and the principle of government control over providing a service will be further entrenched in the nation's psyche. The choice in actuality is government provided medical care and it's inevitable mismanagement or medical care provided by a market economy.

Partial government involvement is not possible. It inevitably leads to total government control. Plans for all the so-called Patient's Bill of Rights are a 100% endorsement of the principle of government management and will greatly expand government involvement, even if the intention is to limit government management of the health care system to the extent "necessary" to curtail the abuses of the HMOs. The Patients' Bill of Rights concept is based on the same principles that have given us the mess we have today. Doctors are unhappy, HMOs are being attacked for the wrong reasons, and the patients have become a political football over which all sides demagogue.

The problems started early on when the medical profession, combined with tax code provisions making it more advantageous for individuals to obtain first-dollar health care coverage from third-parties rather than pay for health care services out of their own pockets, influenced the insurance industry into paying for medical services instead of sticking with the insurance principle of paying for major illnesses and accidents for which actuarial estimates could be made. A younger, healthier and growing population was easily able to afford the fees required to generously care for the sick. Doctors, patients and insurance companies all loved the benefits until the generous third-party payment system was discovered to be closer to a Ponzi scheme than true insurance. The elderly started living longer, and medical care became more sophisticated, demands because benefits were generous and insurance costs were moderate until the demographics changed with fewer young people

working to accommodate a growing elderly population—just as we see the problem developing with Social Security. At the same time governments at all levels become much more involved in mandating health care for more and more groups.

Even with the distortions introduced by the tax code, the markets could have still sorted this all out, but in the 1960s government entered the process and applied post office principles to the delivery of medical care with predictable results. The more the government got involved the greater the distortion. Initially there was little resistance since payments were generous and services were rarely restricted. Doctors liked being paid adequately for services that in the past were done at discount or for free. Medical centers, always willing to receive charity patients for teaching purposes in the past liked this newfound largesse by being paid by the government for their services. This in itself added huge costs to the nation's medical bill and the incentive for patients to economize was eroded. Stories of emergency room abuse are notorious since "no one can be turned away."

Artificial and generous payments of any service, especially medical, produces a well-known cycle. The increase benefits at little or no cost to the patient leads to an increase in demand and removes the incentive to economize. Higher demands raises prices for doctor fees, labs, and hospitals; and as long as the payments are high the patients and doctors don't complain. Then it is discovered the insurance companies, HMOs, and government can't afford to pay the bills and demand price controls. Thus, third-party payments leads to rationing of care, limiting choice of doctors, deciding on lab tests, length of stay in the hospital, and choosing the particular disease and conditions that can be treated as HMOs and the government, who are the payers, start making key medical decisions. Because HMOs make mistakes and their budgets are limited however, doesn't justify introducing the notion that politicians are better able to make these decisions than the HMOs. Forcing HMOs and insurance companies to do as the politicians say regardless of the insurance policy agreed upon will lead to higher costs, less availability of services and calls for another round of government intervention.

For anyone understanding economics, the results are predictable: Quality of medical care will decline, services will be hard to find, and the three groups, patients, doctors and HMOs will blame each other for the problems, pitting patients against HMOs and government, doctors against the HMOs, the HMOs against the patient, the HMOs against the doctor and the result will be the destruction of the cherished doctor-patient relationship. That's where we are today and unless we recognize the nature of the problem Congress will make things worse. More government meddling surely will not help.

Of course, in a truly free market, HMOs and pre-paid care could and would exist—there would be no prohibition against it. The Kaiser system was not exactly a creature of the government as is the current unnatural HMO-government-created chaos we have today. The current HMO mess is a result of our government interference through the ERISA laws, tax laws, labor laws, and the incentive by many in this country to socialize medicine "American style," that is the inclusion of a corporate level

of management to rake off profits while draining care from the patients. The more government assumed the role of paying for services the more pressure there has been to managed care.

The contest now, unfortunately, is not between free market health care and nationalized health care but rather between those who believe they speak for the patient and those believing they must protect the rights of corporations to manage their affairs as prudently as possible. Since the system is artificial there is no right side of this argument and only political forces between the special interests are at work. This is the fundamental reason why a resolution that is fair to both sides has been so difficult. Only the free market protects the rights of all persons involved and it is only this system that can provide the best care for the greatest number. Equality in medical care services can be achieved only by lowering standards for everyone. Veterans hospital and Medicaid patients have notoriously suffered from poor care compared to private patients, yet, rather than debating introducing consumer control and competition into those programs, we're debating how fast to move toward a system where the quality of medicine for everyone will be achieved at the lowest standards.

Since the problem with our medical system has not been correctly identified in Washington the odds of any benefits coming from the current debates are remote. It looks like we will make things worse by politicians believing they can manage care better than the HMO's when both sides are incapable of such a feat.

Excessive litigation has significantly contributed to the ongoing medical care crisis. Greedy trial lawyers are certainly part of the problem but there is more to it than that. Our legislative bodies throughout the country are greatly influenced by trial lawyers and this has been significant. But nevertheless people do sue, and juries make awards that qualify as "cruel and unusual punishment" for some who were barely involved in the care of the patient now suing. The welfare ethic of "something for nothing" developed over the past 30 to 40 years has played a role in this serious problem. This has allowed judges and juries to sympathize with unfortunate outcomes not related to malpractice and to place the responsibility on those most able to pay rather than on the ones most responsible. This distorted view of dispensing justice must someday be addressed or it will continue to contribute to the deterioration of medical care. Difficult medical cases will not be undertaken if outcome is the only determining factor in deciding lawsuits. Federal legislation prohibiting state tort law reform cannot be the answer. Certainly contractual arrangements between patients and doctors allowing specified damage clauses and agreeing on arbitration panels would be a big help. State-level "loser pays" laws, which discourage frivolous and nuisance lawsuits, would also be a help.

In addition to a welfare mentality many have developed a lottery jackpot mentality and hope for a big win through a "lucky" lawsuit. Fraudulent lawsuits against insurance companies now are an epidemic, with individuals feigning injuries in order to receive compensation. To find moral solutions to our problems in a nation devoid of moral standards is difficult. But the litigation epidemic could be ended if we accepted the principle of the right of contract.

Doctors and hospitals could sign agreements with patients to settle complaints before they happen. Limits could be set and arbitration boards could be agreed upon prior to the fact. Limiting liability to actual negligence was once automatically accepted by our society and only recently has this changed to receiving huge awards for pain and suffering, emotional distress and huge punitive damages unrelated to actual malpractice or negligence. Legalizing contracts between patients and doctors and hospitals would be a big help in keeping down the defensive medical costs that fuel the legal cost of medical care.

Because the market in medicine has been grossly distorted by government and artificially managed care, it is the only industry where computer technology adds to the cost of the service instead of lowering it as it does in every other industry. Managed care cannot work. Government management of the computer industry was not required to produce great services at great prices for the masses of people. Whether it is services in the computer industry or health care all services are best delivered in the economy ruled by market forces, voluntary contracts and the absence of government interference.

Mixing the concept of rights with the delivery of services is dangerous. The whole notion that patient's "rights" can be enhanced by more edicts by the federal government is preposterous. Providing free medication to one segment of the population for political gain without mentioning the cost is passed on to another segment is dishonest. Besides, it only compounds the problem, further separating medical services from any market force and yielding to the force of the tax man and the bureaucrat. No place in history have we seen medical care standards improve with nationalizing its delivery system. Yet, the only debate here in Washington is how fast should we proceed with the government takeover. People have no more right to medical care than they have a right to steal your car because they are in need of it. If there was no evidence that freedom did not enhance everyone's well being I could understand the desire to help others through coercive means. But delivering medical care through government coercion means not only diminishing the quality of care, it undermines the principles of liberty. Fortunately, a system that strives to provide maximum freedom for its citizens, also supports the highest achievable standard of living for the greatest number, and that includes the best medical care.

Instead of the continual demagoguery of the issue for political benefits on both sides of the debate, we ought to consider getting rid of the laws that created this medical management crisis.

The ERISA laws requiring businesses to provide particular programs for their employees should be repealed. The tax codes should give equal tax treatment to everyone whether working for a large corporation, small business, or is self employed. Standards should be set by insurance companies, doctors, patients, and HMOs working out differences through voluntary contracts. For years it was known that some insurance policies excluded certain care and this was known up front and was considered an acceptable provision since it allowed certain patients to receive discounts. The federal government should defer to state governments to deal with the litigation crisis

and the need for contract legislation between patients and medical providers. Health care providers should be free to combine their efforts to negotiate effectively with HMOs and insurance companies without running afoul of federal anti-trust laws—or being subject to regulation by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). Congress should also remove all federally-imposed roadblocks to making pharmaceuticals available to physicians and patients. Government regulations are a major reason why many Americans find it difficult to afford prescription medicines. It is time to end the days when Americans suffer because the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prevented them from getting access to medicines that were available and affordable in other parts of the world!

The most important thing Congress can do is to get market forces operating immediately by making Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) generously available to everyone desiring one. Patient motivation to save and shop would be a major force to reduce cost, as physicians would once again negotiate fees downward with patients—unlike today where the government reimbursement is never too high and hospital and MD bills are always at maximum levels allowed. MSAs would help satisfy the American's people's desire to control their own health care and provide incentives for consumers to take more responsibility for their care.

There is nothing wrong with charity hospitals and possibly the churches once again providing care for the needy rather than through government paid programs which only maximizes costs. States can continue to introduce competition by allowing various trained individuals to provide the services that once were only provided by licensed MDs. We don't have to continue down the path of socialized medical care, especially in America where free markets have provided so much for so many. We should have more faith in freedom and more fear of the politician and bureaucrat who think all can be made well by simply passing a Patient's Bill of Rights.

CONGRATULATING PROFESSOR
KAY KAUFMAN SHELEMAY

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to Professor Kay Kaufman Shelemay. Yesterday, Professor Shelemay was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress; a position she had long sought and no doubt deserved.

Professor Shelemay is profoundly accomplished in the arts. Most of her life has been dedicated to the study and education of music and ethnomusicology. The distinguished author of several publications reflecting the relationship between ethnicity and music, Professor Shelemay has recently served as president of the Society for Ethnomusicology. On two occasions, she has served as a fellow for the National Endowment for Humanities. She was also chairwoman of the Fromm Music Foundation, and she has taught music at several prestigious universities including Harvard, Columbia, and NYU.

Professor Shelemay began her association with AFC as a panelist during 1987 and 1988 in the midst of her burgeoning career. Her involvement with the AFC has spanned over a decade, hence, overseeing operations at the American Folklife Center will come easily for her.

With her background, experience, and passion for ethnomusicology and the folk arts, I am certain Professor Shelemay will be a valuable addition to AFC's Board of Trustees as it pursues programs in the areas of multicultural education, preservation of national archives, and documentation of American Folklife and music.

I wish Professor Shelemay the best of luck in her new role at the American Folklife Center.

RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITY,
INC.: AN ORGANIZATION THAT
LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Opportunity, Inc., an outstanding organization located in Highland Park, Illinois. This is truly a remarkable enterprise and a magnificent example of the initiative needed to help people move welfare to work and a better life.

Opportunity, Inc. is a unique, not-for-profit contract manufacturer of single-use medical products that has been registered with the FDA since 1977, and that employs persons with developmental physical and/or emotional disabilities. Founded in 1976 by local construction executive John Cornell, who still serves as an Emeritus member of the Board of Directors, the company will hold its annual "Handicapable Leadership" Award Dinner in Chicago on Tuesday, October 16, 1999. The keynote speaker will be Ted Kennedy, Jr., a nationally known spokesperson and a leading advocate for the civil rights of people with disabilities.

The company's mission is twofold: (1) to provide a mainstream plant environment in which Handicapable people can work and earn a paycheck as well as the dignity that comes from being employed productively on a full-time basis; and (2) to provide its private sector customers with the best possible quality, price and service.

As everyone understands, budget constraints compel us to look for ways to effectively address important needs without government subsidies, and Opportunity, Inc. is leading the way in this regard. A model of community response and innovation, the company demonstrates how competitive and productive handicapable employees can be. Opportunity, Inc. built and continues to operate the nation's only not-for-profit, certified class 100,000 "clean rooms" for medical and surgical packaging.

When I visited Opportunity, Inc., however, I learned that its business success, while impressive, pales in significance to the positive contributions it has made to its employees' lives. I experienced firsthand how proud, dedicated and competitive they are. As one man said to me, "Congressman, all we need is a

fair chance to compete. That's what we get there at Opportunity and just look at the results!" Clearly, Opportunity, Inc. is an organization that lives up to its name.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent a congressional district that includes enterprises of this caliber. It is my pleasure to salute the employees, management and directors of Opportunity, Inc., and the Grand Marshall of Ceremonies John Cortesi on the occasion of their annual dinner, and to extend my personal congratulations to Sage Products and Allegiance Healthcare, who are the recipient of this year's Handicapable Leadership Award.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2606,
FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT
FINANCING, AND RELATED PRO-
GRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2000

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Foreign Operations conference report.

America loses when we fail to properly fund our foreign operations budget. The report we are considering is almost \$2 billion below the level requested by President Clinton and \$1 billion below last year's budget.

Without adequate funding for our international affairs operations, we will not be equipped to protect the security and the prosperity of Americans at home and abroad, and we risk losing our status as the world's remaining superpower.

American foreign policy should not embrace the short-sighted views of isolationists. Instead, we should meet the myriad of challenges facing the global community. America is at its best when we promote our values abroad by supporting struggling democracies and their efforts to make the transition to market economies.

Mr. Speaker, this conference report provides no Wye Aid funding which we promised our partners in the Middle East. It fails to provide adequate funding for emerging democracies in Africa and fails to assist our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere. It also ignores the needs of Asian countries recovering from financial devastation.

But the greatest disgrace of this conference report is our failure to lend a helping hand to the world's children. The children of Sierra Leone, for example, who have suffered the violent amputation of their limbs, sexual abuse, displacement from their homes, and the ravaging to their innocence and youth, lose yet again when we cut our foreign aid and humanitarian assistance. Programs to provide them food and medical intervention and to return them to their homes and neighborhoods can never succeed. And yet, what greater humanitarian purpose can our foreign policy serve than to bring prosthetic arms and hands to babies whose entire lives lie ahead of them?

I urge my colleagues to join me today and defeat this poorly funded conference report. America's front line of foreign policy should not be shortchanged.

RECOGNIZING BISHOP CHARLES BUSWELL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a man whose dedication to his faith and community is unparalleled. Bishop Charles Buswell served selflessly as a priest for 60 years and this year marks 40 years since he was ordained bishop.

Bishop Buswell was born in Kingfisher, Oklahoma in July 1939. There, he served in a variety of positions in the diocese and also founded a parish, Christ the King. In September 1959, he was ordained Bishop of Pueblo. It was at this point in time he was elected to the Second Vatican Council in Rome, which he called the most significant event of his lifetime. There, during his service from 1962 to 1965, he was one of 2,500 Catholic bishops who discussed possible liturgical changes with Pope John XXIII. For Bishop Buswell it was an exciting time in which he felt he could truly make a difference. He is now one of only thirty living American bishops who attended the Council.

Bishop Buswell took on tough issues of the time. He led the way on issues such as antiwar, racism, just wages, and women's causes both in and out of the Church. Today, long after his 1979 resignation, he is regarded as a prominent clerical figure in the peace movement.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to a man who had a truly remarkable career of giving his time to help others. I would also like to recognize the 40th anniversary of his consecration as a bishop. The people of Colorado and every corner of the United States owe a debt of gratitude to this man who has fought so hard to make a difference.

TRIBUTE TO LEWIS E. PLATT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lewis E. Platt, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hewlett-Packard who is retiring after 33 years of service to the Company.

Hewlett-Packard has flourished under Lew Platt's leadership. The Company, based in the heart of Silicon Valley, Palo Alto, has increased its revenues every year since Mr. Platt was elected President and Chief Executive Officer.

But Lew Platt's success cannot be measured by sales figures only. Lew Platt took it upon himself to create a workplace second to none in its acceptance of women and minorities. Because of his passion and commitment to create a level playing field for all his employees, he built upon the established "HP Way," to the much-celebrated corporate values instituted by the Company's founders Bill Hewlett and David Packard. And because of Lew Platt's leadership, Hewlett-Packard is consistently among the top ten of Fortune's Best Companies to Work For in America.

Mr. Platt has focused Hewlett Packard's corporate giving on three objectives: significantly

improving K-12 science and math achievement, increasing the number of women and minorities studying and teaching science and mathematics, and ensuring that all children are ready to learn when they begin school. Under Mr. Platt's guidance, the Company has donated approximately \$55 million each year to education.

Lew Platt's leadership has extended well beyond Hewlett-Packard. In 1995, he was appointed by President Clinton to the Advisory Committee on Trade Policy Negotiations. He has served as Chairman of one of its three task forces, the World Trade Organization Task Force. He also serves on the Cornell University Council and the Wharton School Board of Overseers.

Lew Platt has also exemplified the best in leadership in his own community—Silicon Valley. In 1996, he was elected Co-Chair of the Board of Directors of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley, an organization formed to strengthen our local economy and help make our region a better place to live for everyone. Under his leadership, Joint Venture: Silicon Valley has launched a number of initiatives that bring people together from business, government, and education to identify and act on regional issues affecting our economic vitality and our quality of life. He has also served as a member of the California Business Roundtable.

Mr. Platt's leadership in California's 14th Congressional District and Silicon Valley which I'm so privileged to represent is a model for all to follow. Through his extraordinary leadership of H-P and the industry, Lew Platt has contributed mightily to our community and our country.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Lew Platt for who he is and all he has done. We are indeed a better country and a better people because of this man.

CONGRATULATING MR. LEWIS E. PLATT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate Mr. Lewis E. Platt, Chairman of the Board, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Hewlett-Packard Company, who is retiring after six years as Chairman of the Board and 33 years of service to the Hewlett-Packard Company. A friend and a neighbor in Silicon Valley from the beginning of his tenure with HP, Lew Platt has understood the importance both of giving back to the community that has given so much to his company and of improving the cities in which he lives and does business. In 1996 Mr. Platt was elected Co-chair, along with San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales, of the Joint Venture Silicon Valley (Calif.) Network, an organization formed in 1991 to strengthen the local economy and make the area a better place in which to live.

Yet by far, Mr. Platt's greatest contributions to my constituents in Silicon Valley and to the nation as a whole have come through the educational programs he has established and sponsored through Hewlett-Packard, aiding students at all levels of school. Lewis Platt has focused HP's national efforts around three stated company goals: significantly improving

K-12 science and math achievements, increasing the number of women and minorities studying and teaching science and mathematics, and ensuring that all children are ready to learn when they begin school.

These platitudes might ring hollow were they not backed by substantive action, but under Mr. Platt's guidance Hewlett-Packard has established a tremendous philanthropy program in order to truly provide help to students of all ages. Because of Lew Platt's efforts and commitment, HP currently donates approximately \$55 million each year to education, with \$8 million going towards K-12 education. In my district, for instance, Hewlett-Packard has helped sponsor the San Jose Diversity in Education Partnership with San Jose State University, East Side Union High School District and Alum Rock Elementary School District. This initiative aims to increase the number of students who are prepared for college and interested in careers in engineering, and has worked with HP's Email Mentor Program, another initiative begun under Lew Platt, encouraging 5th through 12th graders to remain interested in math and science.

Mr. Platt has also helped establish a partnership between Hewlett-Packard and Independence, Silver Creek, and Overfelt High Schools in San Jose to encourage students to stay in school and continue their education after graduation from high school. The benefits of Lew Platt's belief in education, however, stretch far beyond the neighborhood of Hewlett-Packard's corporate headquarters in California. Under the guidance of Mr. Platt, Hewlett-Packard has undertaken and funded similar educational initiatives in Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho, Georgia, Maryland, Delaware, and Massachusetts.

These broad educational efforts, which have meant so much to my constituents and to students across the country, have in many ways been a direct result of Lew Platt's vision, and for this all people who care about the education of our children owe him a debt of gratitude. Wrote Mr. Platt in an open company letter, "At HP, we recognize that supporting education is one of the most important things we can do to realize success for future generations, for our company, and for society as a whole." Lew Platt's corporate achievements at the Hewlett-Packard Company will be long remembered, the successes of the children he helped educate through HP will remain as an even stronger living reminder of the fine work he has done.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL CATANEO

HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, recently the City of Baltimore lost a beloved and respected gentleman, Mr. Michael Cataneo. "Big Mike" as he was widely known throughout his long career on the docks of Baltimore owned Cataneo Line Service, truly an example of the American Dream. His family immigrated from Italy, built the business from scratch and became a leading force in the development of the Port of Baltimore.

Those who knew "Big Mike" often referred to him as the walking encyclopedia of the Baltimore waterfront—not only could he relate every facet about every ship that had ever been in the port of Baltimore, but he could provide one with all of his information, be it good or bad, about every person who worked on the waterfront, and all the politicians downtown, as well!

"Big Mike" will be remembered for his hard work, compassion, and sense of humor; for being a respected business leader; and for his contributions on behalf of the working men and women of the Port of Baltimore. The priest who presided at his funeral characterized Mike as a person who related to the little guy. His treated everyone with the same respect others showed him. Mike would help a needy person because he wanted that person to then be able to help others.

He and his lovely wife, Annie, were residents of Lutherville, Maryland and the Second Congressional District of Maryland for 38 years, and it has been my honor to represent them in Congress.

HONORING IRENE HANSON

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a woman, who, for nearly 40 years, has worked to improve the quality of life for our citizens. On Tuesday, October 12, members of Flint's International Institute will gather to present to Mrs. Irene Hanson, its prestigious Golden Door Award, given annually to an individual who has made a positive impact on the greater Flint community and the Institute itself.

Born in December of 1920, in Breslau, Germany, what is now Wroclaw, Poland, Irene spent her early years as an apprentice in a wholesale paper company, and upon completing her apprenticeship, remained with the company as its bookkeeper.

After the war, Irene and her family, including her mother and two daughters lived in Hanover, West Germany, until the Displaced Persons Act brought them to Flint in 1952, under the sponsorship of Calvary Lutheran Church. Soon after, a third child, a son, was born.

After settling in Flint, Irene sought out and forged a relationship with the International Institute, a relationship that has continued to this day. She has served a great number of roles, including teacher, presenter, activities chair, and board member. It is in each of these positions that she has excelled in her efforts to enhance the lives of those she comes into contact with. Other positions followed, such as in 1962, where she worked as a receptionist, bookkeeper, and fitter at Flint Limb and Brace Company. In 1964, Irene began teaching German for Mott Adult Education, which she still continued to do.

In addition to her work with the International Institute, Irene has also been involved and remains active with the German American National Congress, the American Association of Teachers of German, and the St. Cecilia Society. She has also been an avid supporter of the Flint Institute of Music, Flint Institute of Arts, and the Sloan Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I am always fascinated by stories such as Irene Hanson's. Through tremendous adversity, she was able to fulfill the true American Dream, and find success in her new homeland. She is truly an inspiration to all who come into contact with her. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to please join me to congratulate and wish Irene the very best.

HONORING BISHOP VERNON RANDOLPH BYRD, 105TH BISHOP OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the newly elected and consecrated Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, the Right Reverend Vernon Randolph Byrd. He joins Rev. Dr. W. Bartalette Finney, Sr., Presiding Elder, Rev. Ralph J. Crabbe, and leaders in our community who contribute to the spiritual needs of our greater metropolitan area.

Bishop Byrd's spiritual education began at the age of twelve when he received his call to preach. By the time he was a teenager, he was ordained to preach by the late Bishop Frank Madison Reed, Sr. Bishop Byrd was a success in school and graduated from the public schools of South Carolina, and earned degrees at Allen University, and Boston University.

Prior to his tenure at the Northwest Missouri Conference Fifth District AME Church in Kansas City, Bishop Byrd served as a Pastor and Presiding Elder at several churches. His ministry served congregations including the Macedonia AME Church in Delaware, the St. Paul AME Church in Bermuda, the Newark District-New Jersey Conference, the Macedonia AME Church in New Jersey, the Morris Brown AME Church in Pennsylvania, and the St. James AME Church in New Jersey.

In 1984, Bishop Byrd was elevated to the episcopacy at the seat of the Forty-Second Quadrennial Session of the General Conference. A recipient of numerous awards, he has been honored with the Trumiez Award for outstanding work with retarded children in Delaware. He was recognized as an Honorary Member of the British Empire Medal by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who bestowed the award to him for helping bring order to the Bermuda Isles during a period of civil unrest in 1964. Byrd was also named the 1966 Outstanding Young Man of the Year by the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce and given an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the Payne Theological Seminary in 1994.

Always involved with his community, he is an active member of civil and fraternal organizations, the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, the Royal Masonic Lodge of Scotland, and the NAACP. Bishop Byrd is married to retired school teacher, Theora Lindsey Byrd who serves the Church as the Women's Missionary Society Supervisor where they teach to others that "Unless Souls Are Saved * * * Nothing Is Saved!" They are the parents of two daughters and two sons and grandparents to six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to acknowledge and congratulate Bishop Vernon Randolph Byrd as the 105th Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

RECOGNIZING RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN'S 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise today to celebrate Riley Hospital for Children's 75th birthday.

Founded in 1924, Riley Hospital is named after the famous Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley. Upon his death in 1916, Mr. Riley's heartfelt love for children inspired his friends to decide that a children's hospital would be a perfect memorial for Mr. Riley. More than 40,000 Hoosiers gave over 1.2 million dollars to build the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for children.

As the New York Times observed on October 10, 1924, "Indiana has made her monument [to Riley] one of ministry rather than of mourning . . . The institution which bears his name will do much to make the children of Indiana what he imagined them to be. Indiana has made, as human monuments go, the perfect memorial to her poet."

Since opening its doors on October 7, 1924, Riley Hospital for Children has cared for thousands of children from the City of Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and indeed across the country. Annually, there are more than 135,000 patient visits, including 7,100 admissions and more than 128,000 outpatient visits. Riley Hospital cares for children from each of Indiana's 92 counties. In 75 years, no Hoosier child has been turned away because of an inability to pay.

To continue to meet the needs of children and families, Riley Hospital has grown as it spanned the decades of the 20th century. Today, Riley Hospital is one of the ten largest children's hospitals in the nation, and is Indiana's only children's hospital located on a university campus. It is also one of the two most care-bedded children's hospitals in the United States.

As it has grown, Riley Hospital has endeavored to maintain a standard of excellence respecting patient care. In 1971, Indiana's only pediatric burn unit opened at Riley Hospital. In 1989, Riley Hospital performed Indiana's first newborn and infant heart transplants. Eighty to Ninety percent of Indiana's children with cancer are treated at Riley Hospital's—and Indiana's only—Children's Cancer Center. In addition, Riley Hospital houses the only pediatric dialysis center and pediatric stem cell transplant unit in the State of Indiana.

Though the medical technology at Riley Hospital is remarkable, it is the caring staff that the children and their families depend on to see them through difficult circumstances and turbulent times. Whether it be a doctor, nurse, therapist, social worker, teacher, administrative staff or maintenance worker, their professionalism is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, the children, families, and communities of Indiana have been enriched by the life-saving work of Riley Hospital for Children. As we approach the threshold of the

21st Century, I am confident that this wonderful tribute to James Whitcomb Riley will continue to make a brighter horizon for our children.

LEGISLATION TO AUTHORIZE REHABILITATION OF THE MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM ON THE JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a bill to authorize and direct the Bureau of Reclamation to conduct a feasibility study with regards to the rehabilitation of the municipal water system of the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, located in the State of New Mexico. I am very pleased to be joined by several of my colleagues in the introduction of this important bill—including the other two Representatives from New Mexico, Congressman SKEEN and Congresswoman WILSON; as well as Congressmen KILDEE, HAYWORTH, YOUNG, MILLER, KENNEDY, and BECERRA.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the Jicarilla Apache Reservation relies on one of the most unsafe municipal water systems in the country. While the system is a federally owned entity, the Environmental Protection Agency has nevertheless found the system to be in violation of national safe drinking water standards for several years running—and, since 1995, the water system has continually failed to earn renewal of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination permit.

The sewage lagoons of the Jicarilla water system are now operating well over 100 percent capacity—spilling wastewater into the nearby arroyo that feeds directly into the Navajo River. Since this river serves as a primary source of groundwater for the region, the resulting pollution of the stream not only affects the Reservation but also travels downstream—creating public health hazards for families and communities both within and well beyond the Reservation's borders. Alarming, Jicarilla youth are now experiencing higher than normal incidences of internal organ diseases affecting the liver, kidneys and stomach—ailments suspected to be related to the contaminated water.

Moreover, because of the lack of sufficient water resources, the Jicarilla Tribe is not only facing considerable public health concerns, but it has also necessarily had to put a brake on other important community improvement efforts, including the construction of much needed housing and the replacement of deteriorating public schools. For all of these reasons, the Tribal Council has declared a state of emergency for the Reservation and has already appropriated over \$4.5 million of its own funds to begin the process of rehabilitating the water system.

Following a disastrous 6-day water outage last October, the Jicarilla investigated and discovered the full extent of the deplorable condition of the water system. Acting immediately to address the problem, the tribe promptly contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, the Environmental Protection

Agency and other entities for help in relieving their situation. Yet, due to budget constraints and other impediments, these agencies were unable to provide financial assistance or take any other substantial action to address the problem. In particular, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, having found itself to be poorly suited for the operation and maintenance of tribal water systems, has discontinued its policy of operating its own tribal water systems in favor of transferring ownership directly to the tribes. Unfortunately, however, the dangerous condition of the Jicarilla water system precludes its transfer to the tribe until it has been rehabilitated.

Fortunately, the Bureau of Reclamation is appropriately suited to assist the Jicarilla Apache and the BIA in assessing the feasibility of rehabilitating the tribe's water system. In consultation with the Jicarilla Tribe, the Bureau of Reclamation has indicated both its willingness and its ability to complete the feasibility study should it be authorized to do so as required by law. Recognizing this as the most promising solution for addressing the serious water safety problems plaguing the Jicarilla, I and my fellow cosponsors are introducing this important bill to allow this process to move forward. I hope the rest of our colleagues will similarly join us in passing this bill to remedy this distressing situation.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF BAY COUNTY WOMEN'S CENTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization which has done much to increase awareness of domestic violence in the United States as well as in my home town of Bay City, Michigan. The Bay County Women's Center provides essential support services for victims of physical or sexual assault, many of whom are women in violent domestic situations.

The Women's Center was established in 1975 by twelve dedicated volunteers who had recognized the need for a local support organization which provided essential services for abused persons. The Center now offers victims a wide range of crisis intervention services, such as counseling, advocacy, information and referral services, as well as extensive community education services. This means that a woman who is being abused has someone to turn to twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. The Women's Center has truly proved to be the saving grace for thousands upon thousands of women.

Mr. Speaker, the statistics on domestic violence are staggering. Approximately one family in three will experience domestic violence. And in our country, four women are killed each day by their husband or partner. The victim is killed by someone who, if one uses traditional marriage vows, has promised "to cherish and honor until death do us part"—which, of course, is a far cry from "to cherish and honor until I decide to kill you". Battery and abuse are particularly horrific because they destroy a sacred bond through violence, and leave these women isolated from their community, their family and in mortal fear of their partner.

The Bay County Women's Center, funded in part by the United Way of Bay County, and sustained by many dedicated and caring individuals, is an organization which is a model for all community agencies devoted to protecting adults and child victims against domestic violence and sexual assault. This month is designated National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and to mark this, the Women's Center plans their annual Candlelight Vigil for survivors to domestic violence. The Center is committed to ending domestic violence in Bay County, and for that very fact, it deserves our respect. Mr. Speaker, I invite you and all our colleagues to join me in honoring the work of the Bay County Women's Center. May I also offer my deepest condolences to the victims of domestic violence, and my support for all the survivors. It is my sincerest hope that with the guiding example of the Bay County Women's Center, we can all join together to work against the horrific crime of domestic violence and abuse.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on October 4, 1999, I was unavoidably detained and consequently missed two votes. Had I been here I would have voted: "Yes" on the passage of H. Res. 181. "Yes" on the passage of H.R. 1451.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRANZ FRUEHWIRTH ON HIS INDUCTION TO THE FLORICULTURE HALL OF FAME

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, my district in San Diego is home to some of our nation's largest flower growers. This industry plays a key role in the economy of San Diego County, the state of California, and the entire country. Flower growers, wholesalers, and retail shops produce a product that makes all of our lives more beautiful.

Last week, the Society of American Florists recognized the achievements of two outstanding individuals in the floral industry. I want to personally commend one of those individuals, who also happens to be my constituent. The Society of American Florists gave out its highest award—induction into the Floriculture Hall of Fame—to Franz Fruehwirth, a scientist, inventor and breeder for the Paul Ecke Ranch, in Encinitas, California.

We should thank Franz every time a poinsettia—the number one flowering potted plant in the United States—is bought, sold and enjoyed. As one of the premier poinsettia breeders in the world, Franz has created many "firsts," including Lilo, the first long-lasting, dark leaf poinsettia that set the standard for all future varieties. He also created the first yellow poinsettia, "Lemon Drop." He bred the

classic Freedom poinsettia, which now represents more than 60 percent of the poinsettia production in the United States.

Franz is more than a plant breeder. He is also responsible for developing the first hanging basket container and the first self-watering container. He also premiered a technique to produce the poinsettia in a tree form. He has shown his dedication to the floral industry as a 31-year member of the Ohio Florists' Association and the San Diego County Flower Growers Association.

In his acceptance speech, Franz simply said that he had been privileged to spend his life doing what he really considers to be fun: playing with his plants and seeing what new and exciting varieties he can develop. What a great lesson for all of us: here is a man who, by loving his work and devoting his life to that love, has given a great gift to us all.

Few of us can remember a time when Christmas celebrations did not include the poinsettia, but we would not have poinsettias at Christmas time without Franz Fruehwirth. The floral industry, my good friend Paul Ecke, of the Paul Ecke Ranch, and all of us in America are fortunate to have Franz Fruehwirth, who has changed American floriculture forever. And I am very proud to have him as my constituent.

I have attached an article from the San Diego Union Tribune that further highlights Mr. Fruehwirth's career.

POINSETTIA BREEDER RECOGNIZED WITH A
SLOT IN HORTICULTURAL HALL OF FAME
(By Dan Kraft)

Ecke, now that's a name synonymous with poinsettias.

Franz Fruehwirth's name may not be as well-known, but he, too, has been instrumental in the proliferation of the popular plants.

Fruehwirth's contributions to the floral industry were recognized in Tucson last week, when he was inducted into the Society of American Florists' Floriculture Hall of Fame at the group's annual convention.

Fruehwirth, 66, is the chief breeder, or hybridizer, at the Paul Ecke Ranch in Encinitas, which claims to be the world's largest producer and breeder of poinsettias. For the latter half of that claim, they have Fruehwirth to thank.

Although Ecke sells about 500,000 poinsettias grown in its own greenhouses each Christmas season, its genetic work has been licensed to growers around the globe and accounts for about 80 percent of poinsettias sold in the world. That genetic work is largely Fruehwirth's.

"Until he started breeding, almost all the poinsettias in the world had been mutations," said Marc Cathey, president emeritus of the American Horticultural Society and one of those who wrote letters recommending Fruehwirth for induction. "He is unique because he has no scientific training to do what he does, yet he has beat all the big boys in the world."

Fruehwirth, a native of Hungary, immigrated to the United States from Germany in 1960 with his wife, Lilo, and their daughter Monika. He was 27 at the time and did not speak English. He worked at a tailor's shop in Oceanside when Paul Ecke Jr., a customer at the shop, hired Lilo as a housekeeper and nanny and offered Fruehwirth a job caring for his plants. That was in 1962, at a time when the ranch was converting from field-grown plants to greenhouses.

"Very quickly it became obvious that he was intelligent and creative, and Dad and Grandpa began promoting him," said Paul

Ecke III. "He was instrumental in figuring out how to grow the poinsettias inside."

In 1968, Fruehwirth introduced the first new poinsettia genetics created at the Ecke Ranch. In 1991, a new variety he bred, called Freedom, was introduced. Today, it accounts for 60 percent of the poinsettias sold in the United States and Canada.

"I feel there are a lot of people who deserve recognition like this, and I'm very fortunate that I have the honor," Fruehwirth said. "I love my work and am humbled to get (the Hall of Fame induction)."

According to the Society of American Florists, induction into its Hall of Fame is reserved for those who have made a unique contribution to the industry and changed the way it does business.

"Most of those honored have a Ph.D. or are owners of major floral companies," Cathey said. "It's very rare for someone like Franz to receive this award."

During his 37-year tenure with the Eckes, Fruehwirth's "cultivars" have become increasingly dark in color and hearty, which enables florists to ship the plants greater distances and gives them a longer shelf life.

Fruehwirth, who lives in Encinitas with his wife, has no plans to retire. He is still hard at work evaluating the potential of 6,000 to 10,000 seedlings each year.

"As long as I have a positive influence, I'll keep working", he said in Tucson last week. "I still can't believe (the honor)."

A TRIBUTE TO PAYNE & DOLAN,
INC., WINNER OF A 1999 EXEMPLARY
VOLUNTEER EFFORTS
AWARD FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to an exemplary act of community spirit and corporate citizenship. A company located in Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District, Payne & Dolan, Incorporated, a Waukesha, Wisconsin-based highway construction company, has been named a 1999 recipient of the prestigious Exemplary Volunteer Efforts (EVE) Award from the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Department of Labor has recognized Payne & Dolan for an innovative minority hiring, training and development program that has provided outstanding opportunities for more than 160 minorities and women and invested more than \$3 million into Milwaukee's central city.

Payne & Dolan is the first highway construction company ever to receive this award. The company's comprehensive equal opportunity program includes proactive hiring efforts in Milwaukee's central city, community involvement and partnerships, scholarships, employee training and development, minority business mentoring and more.

The company has worked with the YWCA of Greater Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and other community partners to develop a pilot program called Transportation Alliance for New Solutions, or TRANS. This program recruits and raises awareness of industry opportunities among minorities and women.

In addition, Payne & Dolan helped spearhead development of the Central City Work-

ers' Center (CCWC), a centralized "one-stop shop" to link highway contractors with potential employees. This one-of-a-kind collaboration among unions, government, industry and community-based organizations seeks to provide family-sustaining incomes to a minimum of 150 central city residents over the next two years.

Payne & Dolan's success stories are the life stories of people like Sean McDowell, who began working for Payne & Dolan in 1993 and today, with the company's guidance and support, owns his own asphalt company. People like Roger Carson, who was hired as a laborer in 1991 and has been a foreman for two years. And people like Wendy Young, who was hired as an unskilled laborer in 1994 and is now an apprentice operating engineer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the contributions and commitment of Payne & Dolan and its CEO, Ned Bechthold, as well as salute the employees who have worked hard to make this equal opportunity program succeed and to make the EVE award possible. It is clear that Payne & Dolan is building much more than highways—it is also building a direct path to opportunity. I commend Payne & Dolan, and I commend the United States Department of Labor for its recognition of this outstanding corporate citizen.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate German-American Day and the many great contributions German-Americans made to our society. Through their loyalty, determination, spirit, and culture, German-Americans have significantly enriched the lives of all Americans.

In 1987, Congress formally recognized the achievements of German-Americans by proclaiming October 6th to be German-American Day. As we celebrate this October 6th, the thirteenth celebration of German-American Day, all Americans have the opportunity to reflect upon the cultural legacy of German-Americans.

America's German heritage predates our nation's independence. Our first German immigrants arrived in Philadelphia in 1683. Since that time, America has enjoyed the immeasurable contributions of such creative German-American minds as Carl Schurz, Baron von Steuben, Levy Strauss, John Jacob Astor, and Peter Zenger. More recently, the works of Albert Einstein, Werner von Braun, and Henry Kissinger are testimony to the industriousness, loyalty, and talent of German-Americans.

In addition to the contributions of these German-Americans, 57 million Americans of German descent have helped enrich America through their participation in the workforce and the arts. In the 1990s, when my home city of Chicago experienced rapid growth, German immigrants arrived in their largest numbers. By sharing their industry and arts with our city, they helped Chicago become one of the world's great cities. Although Germans were only twenty-nine percent of the city's population, they constituted fifty percent of the city's bakers, forty-four percent of brick and

tile makers, and thirty-seven percent of machinists. While German-American craftsmen and skilled workers fueled Chicago's industrial growth, German art, music, and literature also helped mold the cultural developments of the city.

After the Great Fire of 1871, German-Americans took an active role in rebuilding Chicago. Their efforts can be seen even today in the city's world renowned architectural beauty. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra was founded by a German-American violinist and flourished due to talented German musicians who made Chicago's Symphony Orchestra into one of the world's greatest musical institutions. In addition, German theater introduced the classical works of Schiller and Goethe as well as many other European works.

While the contributions of German-Americans have shaped American cultural and industrial development, they are easily overlooked, largely because they have been overwhelmingly embraced by Americans and are now thought of as simply "American." October 6, 1999 once again calls attention to all Americans of German descent and their contributions to the vibrancy and strength of the United States.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my full support of H.R. 1451, the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Act.

This bill would authorize the creation of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, a group charged with the responsibility of recommending to Congress activities to celebrate the bicentennial of President Lincoln's birth.

I am particularly pleased that the bill has been amended to include commission members from my home state of Indiana.

This is important because many people don't realize President Lincoln spent 14 years of his life on a small farm in Lincoln City, Indiana. There he helped his father on the farm and developed his love of reading. It was in Lincoln City that he also lost his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, when he was nine years old. These events during his formative years in Indiana contributed greatly to the development of President Lincoln's extraordinary character.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Indiana are proud of this heritage. H.R. 1451 will help highlight the extraordinary life of our 16th president. No commemoration would be complete without noting southern Indiana's part in the Abraham Lincoln story. I encourage all Americans wishing to learn more about this American hero to visit Lincoln City, Indiana, and the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

I am pleased Congress is taking the initiative to promote and support the commemoration of such a remarkable figure in our American history.

RAY SAUL HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished journalist, community leader, and close friend from my District in Hazleton, Pennsylvania—Ray Saul. This month, the Sons of Italy Lodge 1043 will honor Ray as "Italian American of the Year." I am pleased to have been asked to participate in this event.

A native of Hazleton, Ray is a graduate of Hazleton High School and Penn State, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in journalism. He was the editor of his college yearbook and was cited by the All College Board for outstanding achievement as a student leader. A Navy veteran of World War II, Ray entered the service as an apprentice seaman and retired as a Lieutenant Commander after a combined 21 years of active and reserve service.

Ray is best known to the community for his 47 years of dedicated journalism at the Hazleton Standard-Speaker newspaper. Ray was sports editor at the Standard-Speaker for twenty-seven years and managing editor for the last fifteen years. Since his retirement in 1997, he continues to write sports columns and other features for the newspaper. As a journalist, Ray was an active member of the Associated Press Sports Editors Association and the Managing Editors Association.

In 1995, he was honored by the Department of Defense for his feature stories of various Hazletonians serving in World War II. Ray received an Associated Press Citation for a story on a local basketball team's success. In recognition of his writing and participation in sports, he was honored by several chapters of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and the PIAA District 2.

Ray Saul has always recognized the unique responsibilities inherent in leading a local newspaper which is truly the voice of its community. Under his leadership, the Standard-Speaker could be relied on for fair and accurate reporting of stories important to the Greater Hazleton area. Ray always put the interests of the community first.

Ray's accomplishments are far reaching into the community as well. He is an active Kiwanian and has been awarded the International Tablet of Honor once and the Kiwanian of the Year twice. He has been an active Penn State alum, helping to raise funds for new buildings on the Hazleton Campus. In 1984, he was the fifth person in the then-50 year history of the Hazleton campus to receive the Penn Stater Award, for outstanding service to the university.

Mr. Speaker, Ray is the son of the late Santo Saul and Genevieve DeJoseph. All four of his grandparents were Italian immigrants. From his distinguished Navy career his beloved journalism career, Ray is a true example of an American success story. Even in retirement, he and his wife Nell are respected, active members of the community. I applaud the Sons of Italy for their choice of this year's honoree and am proud to congratulate Ray on yet another prestigious award. I send him my heartiest best wishes for continued health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 4, I was unavoidably detained and missed four votes on the House floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall votes 470–473.

HONORING BILL WALTERS

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Bill Walters, who holds the office of Registrar of Wills in York, Pennsylvania. Mr. Walters has never lost an election, primary or general, and has been on the ballot 38 consecutive times as either a candidate for Springettsbury township, Register of Wills, or Republican Committeeman. After years of committed service to the people of York and York County, he will be retiring at the end of this term.

Bill Walters came to York, Pennsylvania from Connecticut, but regards York as his home and plans to remain here after retirement. He has always been a big supporter of mine as well as good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Bill Walters as he steps down from his position with the City of York, and wish him well in his upcoming retirement from a life of public service.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE LYKOURETZOS, 1999 CHARLES E. PIPER AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. George Lykouretzos, a business owner in Berwyn, Illinois. Mr. Lykouretzos will be receiving the Charles E. Piper Award for Business Achievement.

The Charles E. Piper Award is named for one of Berwyn's original developers. Each year, the Berwyn Development Corporation honors business men and women from the community who contribute to the growth and economic development of the community. This year, George Lykouretzos has been chosen because of his commitment to the community.

George Lykouretzos is the owner of Skylite Family Restaurant and the Skylite West Banquets located in Berwyn, Illinois. Because of his outstanding business practices and his commitment to the investing back into the community, the Berwyn Development Corporation chose to honor George Lykouretzos with the Charles E. Piper Award on October 23, 1999.

I would like to commend George Lykouretzos and his family and staff on their excellent service to their customers. I would also like to extend my personal congratulations on Mr. Lykouretzos' achievement and

wish him and his family well with their future success and their commitment to the community.

20 YEARS OF AFFORDABLE
HOUSING

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the San Diego Housing Commission on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. During these two decades, the Housing Commission has helped to provide approximately a half million San Diegans with quality housing opportunities. In the process, neighborhoods have been revitalized and the economy vastly improved.

The Housing Commission has invested billions of dollars in San Diego, resulting in the development of 10,000 apartment units—including nearly 5,500 designed for lower income San Diegans—and in the stabilization of rents for thousands of San Diegans through rental assistance.

The Housing Commission has been a leader in our nation. Its approach to developing and managing its 1,860 public housing units has earned it acclaim and national awards. The awards recognize the Commission for the design and maintenance of its properties and for the Commission's philosophy of distributing public housing throughout the city.

The residents in San Diego public housing benefit from the Housing Commission's programs that have set national standards in helping residents achieve self-sufficiency. The six learning opportunity centers at the Commission's sites provide a way for residents to escape dependence on welfare.

The residents are active partners with the Commission in improving their lives—the Small Business Administration and San Diego Chamber of Commerce Welfare-to-Work Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998 was won by a Housing Commission resident, Yohannes Miles, who became a painting contractor. Needless to say, Mr. Miles is now a former client of the Commission—he has moved into his own home!

The Housing Commission has improved our whole City. It has helped more than 8,000 families rehabilitate their homes and has paved the way for 3,100 low- to moderate-income people to purchase their first home.

The Housing Commission employees are dedicated—15 have been with the agency since its founding. In its 20 years, Commission employees have helped the agency win countless national awards and honors, including high performance ratings each year from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the first Award of Excellence for Enduring Design from the National Association of Redevelopment Officials, and an award for consensus building in developing public housing.

I want to wish the employees and the officials of the San Diego Housing Commission, and the forward thinking city leaders who started the agency, a happy anniversary. May you provide many others with the basic opportunity and right of housing in San Diego in the years to come.

CALVARY CHILDREN'S CENTER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize an exceptional organization that has made a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of Georgia's children. That organization is Calvary Children's home.

The Calvary Children's Home was founded in 1966 by Reverend Ben F. Turner, and has been located in Cobb County, Georgia, for 33 years. Rev. Turner's first vision of Calvary took place on the streets of Jerusalem, when a poor woman offered to sell her baby to his tour group for money to support her other children. Then, in 1965 a local father and mother of six were returning from shopping when both were killed in an automobile accident. However, as much as the children were disturbed by the loss of their parents, they were equally upset with the prospect of being separated from each other in the foster care system, especially after such a great loss.

In September 1997, Rev. Turner's ultimate dream was finally realized, as the Calvary Children's Home moved from its original dormitory-style complex into three beautiful homes located on 13 acres of land near Powder Springs, Georgia. In January a new administrative center featuring a dining hall, library, and counseling center was completed on the property under the direction of Administrator Snyder Turner. The home has always been funded entirely by generous private funding from churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals dedicated to giving children in need a second chance.

The Calvary Children's Home presently houses 26 children, and has housed more than 400 children since first opening its doors 33 years ago. The center is a nonprofit, charitable organization providing long-term residential care for children who are victims of broken homes, abuse, neglect, or abandonment. The majority of its residents are brothers and sisters who otherwise would have been separated from each other and placed into separate homes through the foster care system.

The Calvary Children's Home is an excellent example of private individuals reaching out and making a difference in the lives of our youth, without public mandates or tax dollars. It speaks well of Georgia's Seventh District that such an organization can survive. I wish Administrator Turner, the staff, residents, and donors well in continuing their commitments to love, spiritual values, and improving the lives of our young people.

IN HONOR OF YOLANDA'S ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE ON ITS 25TH ANNUAL RECITAL AND ITS FOUNDER, MS. YOLANDA FERNANDEZ-QUINCOCES

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yolanda's Academy of Music and

Dance on the celebration of its 25th Annual Recital and its founder, Ms. Yolanda Fernandez-Quincoces, for her many accomplishments. She has made every effort to provide a forum in which the young people of Hudson County, and particularly of Union City, NJ, are able to express their interest in the arts.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Ms. Fernandez demonstrated tremendous artistic ability at a very young age. After moving to the United States with her family, Ms. Fernandez begun taking lessons in ballet and piano at the age of five. She continued her training at the New Jersey Ballet, Oneida's Dance Studio, and the American Ballet Theater, where she also excelled in Flamenco dance and piano while attending classes with renowned leaders in the fields of study.

Ms. Fernandez, since receiving her bachelor's degree in Music Education from New York University, has served as a music and dance educator at the Woodrow Wilson School for the Integrated Arts in my hometown of Union City, NJ, where she is known for her remarkable commitment to her student's education.

Ms. Fernandez has demonstrated her dedication to the arts and education through her involvement in such associations as the Dance Educators of America, the Dance Masters of America, the National Guild of Piano Teachers, and the National Education Association. Her participation in the advancement of the arts includes making personal appearances at the New Jersey Opera and on various television broadcasts. In addition, she produced and hosted her own television program called "Art Beat."

Ms. Fernandez's artistic contributions to the community and her unwavering commitment to promoting the arts in our schools have not gone unnoticed. In 1996, she was named "Teacher of the Year" by Union City, Hudson County, and the Governor of the State of New Jersey. In 1996 and 1997, she received the prestigious "Outstanding Choreographer" Award from the Dance Educators of America in New York City.

In recognition of Ms. Fernandez's impassioned devotion to promoting the arts in our schools and communities, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating her, as well as Yolanda's Academy of Music and Dance, on this occasion, the 25th Annual Recital, and wishing Ms. Fernandez continued success in her endeavors.

IN TRIBUTE TO SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT ALBERT M. ROMANO,
JR.

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Senior Master Sergeant Albert M. Romano, Jr., one of 12 U.S. Air Force Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

"Buddy" Romano hails from Oxnard, California, in my district, where he starred in varsity football and baseball at Santa Clara High School and was ranked 32nd in California for motocross racing.

He married his high school sweetheart, the former Jennifer Suytar, also of Oxnard. The

couple now have three children, 12-year-old Tyler, 9-year-old Megan, and 5-year-old Zachary, who must be very proud of their father for all he has achieved.

The Outstanding Airmen Award program began in 1956 during the Air Force Association's national convention as a way to highlight an Air Force military manpower crisis at the time. It proved so popular that it became an official Air Force award the following year.

Competition for Airman of the Year is strenuous. Nominations are sent from each command, separate operating agency, direct reporting unit, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard to the Air Force Manpower Personnel Center. A high-ranking selection board narrows the field, then the final selections are validated and approved by the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff.

The criteria for this honor is "unique, unusual, or outstanding individual involvement and achievement within the preceding 12 months." Selection considerations include: superior general job performance; job knowledge and leadership qualities applied to a specific Air Force problem or situation; development of new techniques or procedures resulting in increased mission effectiveness; noteworthy self-improvement through on- or off-duty educational studies, participation in professional or cultural societies/associations, or development of creative abilities; participation in social, cultural, or religious activities in the military and/or civilian community which contribute directly or indirectly to community or group welfare, morale, or status; other significant achievements on- or off-duty which by their nature or results clearly distinguish the Airman from others of equal or higher grade; Air Force or civilian awards in recognition of personal service or contribution; and demonstrated ability as an articulate and positive Air Force spokesperson.

Buddy Romano must have been an easy selection.

He joined the Air Force in 1981 and quickly established himself as an outstanding airman. In 1983, he was named NCO of the Year. In 1984, he earned the Distinguished Graduate Award from the 15th Air Force NCO Leadership School at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota. He maintained a 96 percent fully mission capable rating during his first year—his unit's highest—as Dedicated Crew Chief at the 388th Fighter Wing, Hill Air Force Base, Utah. In 1987, he served in Operation Desert Storm. In 1988, he earned the NCO of the Year for the 548th Aircraft Generation Squadron, while maintaining a place on the Dean's List for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. In 1992, he earned his degree in Aircraft Maintenance from the Community College of the Air Force.

Somehow, he has free time. Buddy has filled it by coaching or umpiring during almost every intramural varsity, high school, or youth basketball and baseball season since he became an airman. He has volunteered countless hours to the Equal Opportunity and Treatment Program, Anglo American sports day, Special Olympics, Arrive Alive Program, Toys for Tots Program, Top Three events, and countless other Air Force-sponsored events.

His military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, with two clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal, with one cluster; the Air Force Achievement Medal; the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with five oak

leaf clusters; the National Defense Service Medal; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal; and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of recently meeting with Senior Master Sergeant and Jennifer Romano. They serve as a model for military couples, dedicating their lives to their family and their country. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting Albert M. Romano, Jr., for earning the respect and gratitude of his peers, his officers, and his country.

RECOGNIZING BORUNDA INC. AND PLAZA VENTANA RESTAURANT

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Borunda as President and CEO of Borunda Inc., along with Plaza Ventana Restaurant. Borunda Inc. is a corporation specializing in the food service business; and Plaza Ventana is a product of David's perseverance to become an entrepreneur.

David Borunda originally established his business in 1977 by opening Plaza Mexican Restaurant. Due to the tremendous success of the restaurant, Borunda was invited to join the food court at Fresno's Manchester Mall, in which his operation became the largest volume food operation in the facility. Borunda's career further escalated in 1984 when he was invited to join the food court at Fresno's Fashion Faire Shopping Center. Thus, he opened his third location and immediately assumed the number one volume store in the food court. Branching away from food courts, Borunda opened a full sit down restaurant located in the Times Square Shopping Center in Fresno. Plaza Ventana was well received and immediately became a success. As a result, this location was expanded by an additional one thousand square feet, which included a full service bar and an additional dining area.

Borunda was born and raised in Fresno, California and is well rooted in the community. He served as president of the California Restaurant Association Fresno Chapter in 1993 and 1994, and has over 50 employees. As proof of Borunda's enormous success, one has to look no further than the three Best Mexican Restaurant award, given by the California Restaurant Association, he has won.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor David Borunda for his tremendous success as an entrepreneur. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing David many more years of continued success.

QUALITY CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in supporting this bill that ad-

resses the problem of the rising number of Americans who cannot afford health insurance. Under this plan, we will be able to extend health care options to the 44 million people in our country who remain uninsured.

We know that most people without health insurance have one thing in common: they cannot afford health care. They are either self-employed or they work in a small business that cannot afford to pay for health benefits.

The Quality Care for the Uninsured Act creates Association Health Plans to combat the high cost of health care in our country. Small businesses and self-employers will now have the ability to join together under the umbrella of trade and professional organizations to buy health insurance for themselves and their employees.

Association Health Plans will bring more choices and greater flexibility to those who need it most. Estimates show that small businesses will save between 10 and 20 percent on health care costs with Association Health Plans. By cutting costs, we can expand health care coverage for the millions of hard-working Americans that are currently uninsured.

I commend Representative TALENT and Representative SHADEGG for their dedication to this important issue, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

THE PENSION REDUCTION DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1999

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation, developed with my colleague on the Ways and Means Committee Mr. WELLER and in conjunction with the Administration, which will provide increased notice to employees when their employers convert their pension plans from traditional defined benefit plans to so-called "cash balance" plans.

The Pension Reduction Disclosure Act of 1999 revises existing section 204(h) of ERISA and adds related ERISA and tax provisions providing for the following: (1) a basic advance notice must be given for amendments that reduce the rate of future benefit accrual in a pension plan; (2) an enhanced advance notice must be given when applicable large plans are converted to cash balance plans or otherwise amended to reduce the rate of future benefit accrual; (3) individuals receiving the enhanced notice have the right to receive supporting general plan information, such as the plan's benefit formula and actuarial factors; and (4) individuals receiving the enhanced notice also have the right to receive individual benefit statements relating to the projected effect of the amendment on them. In general, the information required to be provided under the Act must be written in a manner calculated to be reasonably understood by the average plan participant. The Act imposes minimum notice and information requirements; employers may choose to provide information (in the required notice or otherwise) that is in addition to that required under the Act.

Basic advance notice: Current law requires 15 days' advance notice for amendments that reduce the rate of future benefit accrual in a

pension plan. Pension plans subject to the Act requirements are those plans subject to existing section 204(h) of ERISA. The Act increases this to 45 days before the effective date. The Act eliminates the current law requirement that notice be provided only after the plan amendment has been adopted. A plan is not to be treated as failing to meet the notice requirements of the Act merely because notice is provided before the adoption of the amendment if no modification of the amendment occurs before the amendment is adopted that would affect the information required to be in the notice. The notice must include the effective date and the classes of individuals under the plan to which the amendment applies. The notice must state that the amendment significantly reduces the rate of future benefit accrual and must summarize the important terms of the amendment. For example, in the case of a money purchase pension plan in which the rate of future contributions for all salaried employees is reduced from 7% of compensation to 4% of compensation, the basic notice must state that the plan is being amended to significantly reduce the rate of future contributions, that the rate of future contributions is being reduced from 7% of compensation to 4% of compensation, and that the amendment applies to all participants who are salaried employees on or after the effective date, which must be specified in the notice.

Enhanced advance notice: The enhanced advance notice applies to plans with at least 100 active participants at the end of the prior plan year (this information is on the Form 5500). This notice must provide the following additional information concerning the amendment: (1) a more detailed description of the plan amendment; (2) illustrative examples; (3) supporting information; and (4) individual benefit statements.

More detailed description. The enhanced notice provided to an affected participant must describe the normal and, if applicable, the early retirement benefit formulas under which the participant had been earning benefits before the amendment, describe the formulas under the plan as amended, and explain the effect of the amendment on the participant's normal and early retirement benefits. The enhanced notice, like the basic notice, must also state that the amendment is expected to significantly reduce the rate of future benefit accrual.

In addition, the enhanced notice must explicitly disclose any "wearaway" or "benefit plateau" or temporary period, expected to result from the amendment, during which there are no accruals or only minimal accruals. For example, if a large pension plan were amended from a traditional defined benefit plan to a cash balance plan through an amendment that reduced the rate of future benefit accrual, and the amendment provided for the establishment of an opening account balance using a formula or factors that resulted in the opening account balance being less than certain participants' section 417(e) lump sum value, the enhanced notice would have to identify the participants likely to experience a temporary cessation of accruals and explain why the wearaway occurred (for example, because the opening account balance was established using a different interest rate than required by the law to value lump sum benefits or because the formula used to establish the opening account balance did not take into account early retirement subsidies).

Illustrative examples. The enhanced notice must also include illustrative examples showing at representative future dates the estimated effect of the amendment on the participants in the examples. The illustrative examples will include estimates that provide a meaningful comparison of benefits that would be earned under the amended plan with benefits that would have been earned assuming the plan had not been amended. At a minimum, for a comparison to be meaningful, it must show benefits under the old and new formulas in the same form and at the same time. Accordingly, a comparison of an immediate lump sum under a new cash balance formula with an age 65 annuity under the pre-amendment final average pay formula would not satisfy the requirement that the comparison be meaningful; instead, the comparison must be in a life annuity form or a form authorized under Treasury regulations (which may, for example, authorize the comparison to be based on a lump sum form provided that that form is used for both the old and the new formulas). The notice (including the basic notice, but not including the supporting information) must be written in a manner reasonable calculated to be understood by the average plan participant.

Representative categories: The examples must be selected in a manner that is fully and fairly representative of the various categories of adversely affected individuals depending on whether the amendment results in similar reductions. While the classes of participants identified in the basic notice will generally be able to be determined under the plan document (e.g. salaried vs. hourly, Subsidiary A vs. Subsidiary B), it is intended that the categories used in the enhanced notice be more refined. While the determination of differing categories will depend on the plan's formulas before and after the amendment, the factors relevant to the determination of the number of categories appropriate to illustrate the effects of the amendment may include age, service and early or normal retirement eligibility. For example, in the case of an amendment that reduces the normal and early retirement benefits, employees who are already eligible for early retirement might be grouped together in a single category.

Supporting information required to be made available at time of advanced enhanced notice: The supporting information required to be made available upon a participant's request will include the factors used to convert the cash balance to an annuity, early retirement reduction factors, and similar assumptions for benefit projections, but the employer will not be required to make available the participant's personal information, such as the participant's date of hire, service history, or compensation. It is understood that, because the information may contain formulas and definitions of plan terms, it may not be practical for this information to be presented in a manner that can be readily understood by the average plan participant, but this information, along with the personal information, should be sufficient so that a professional advisor for the participant can perform the calculations. It is expected that employers could satisfy these requirements by making available appropriate computer programs or other appropriate technology, or providing a plan document with necessary supplemental schedules of current interest and mortality assumptions.

Individual benefit statements: Each individual to whom the enhanced advance notice

has been, or is required to have been, furnished can make one request for an individual benefit statement at any time up to one year after the effective date of any amendment that requires section 204(h) enhanced disclosure. As under current law, no charge may be imposed for furnishing the required individual benefit statement. Under section 502(c)(2) of ERISA, an administrator is subject to liability up to \$100 a day if the individual benefit statement is not provided within 30 days after the date of the request. In no event is the statement required to be provided earlier than 90 days after the effective date of the plan amendment. The Secretary of Labor may in her discretion determine that the statement may be provided at a later date. For example, the Secretary of Labor may determine in a particular case or by guidance of general applicability that the statement can be provided up to 60 days after the request (or, if later, six months after the effective date) in exceptional circumstances. Such exceptional circumstances might include, for example, cases in which the participant's accrual credit is in part based on periods during which the participant has worked for a predecessor or another party other than the plan sponsor, and the participant's work history with the other party is not readily available.

However, it is not intended that any such extension of time is to be permitted to be used as a pretext for a broad-based delay in delivering individual benefit statements that can reasonably be furnished at an earlier date.

Anti-abuse intent: It is intended that the protections of the Act are not to be evaded, so that, for example, if a plan seeks to evade the enhanced notice requirements by freezing benefits and then resuming accruals at a reduced accrual rate, a second enhanced notice would be required (taking into account the new accrual rate).

No inference: The fact that enhanced disclosure is required as to certain effects of an amendment on certain classes of participants is not intended to imply that the amendment or the plan design change effected by the amendment complies with current law.

Alternative methods of compliance: The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to prescribe alternative or simplified methods of compliance with section 204(h) for the enhanced notice and related information, including and exemption, from some or all of these requirements, in situations not involving a fundamental change in the manner in which accruals are calculated where such other methods are adequate to reasonably inform applicable individuals of the nature of the reductions (such as a complete suspension of accruals under the plan, certain uniform reductions in the benefit accrual formula, or an incremental change in the period taken into account to determine career average or other plan compensation). A fundamental change in the manner in which accruals are calculated would not include certain changes in the compensation taken into account or a uniform reduction in the percentage of compensation on which contributions or accruals are based, but would include, for example, a conversion from a traditional plan (i.e., a flat dollar benefit, career average pay or final pay defined benefit pension plan) to a hybrid pension plan, such as a cash balance plan. A simplified or alternative method may also be permitted in order to ensure that the Act does not discourage

consolidation of an individual's plan benefits, for example, if a buyer's plan is involved in a merger or consolidation with the seller's plan or if the buyer's plan receives a transfer from the seller's plan, the buyer is not subject to requirements that would not apply if the buyer's plan had not accepted a transfer from the seller's plan.

The Secretary of the Treasury may also issue guidance under which a plan may provide the notice only 15 days before the effective date in cases in which a 45-day advance notice would be unduly burdensome either because the amendment is contingent on a merger, acquisition, disposition or other similar transaction or because 45-day advance notice would be impracticable (such as where benefits are being reduced as part of a liquidation or reorganization in bankruptcy or insolvency proceedings).

Sanctions: An excise tax applies to a failure to satisfy the notice requirements and, in the case of an egregious violation, the individual is entitled to the greater of the benefit under the amended plan or the plan before the amendment. Except in the case of a multiemployer plan, the tax is imposed on the employer. If a plan (other than a multiemployer plan) is sponsored by a party other than an employer, it is intended that the plan sponsor will be treated as the employer for this purpose. An egregious violation includes a situation in which there has been no intentional failure to provide notice, but the employer fails to take reasonable corrective steps after discovering that there was a failure to provide notice to some individuals.

Effective date exception where information provided within 120 days of enactment: The notice and information required under the Act is not required to be provided earlier than 120 days after the date of enactment of the Act. For example, if a large pension plan is amended to reduce benefits effective on the day after the enactment of the Act, the amendment could go into effect on the day after the enactment of the Act, but the plan could provide the required enhanced notice and related information (and also furnish any requested individual benefit statements) as late as 120 days after the date of enactment.

HONORING THE BROOKLYN CHINESE-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S EIGHTH AVENUE SENIOR CENTER ON ITS SIX YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association, and the sixth anniversary of its Eighth Avenue Senior Center.

For more than a decade, the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association has provided vital assistance to tens of thousands of the Chinese-American residents who constitute one of New York's fastest-growing communities. Six years ago, recognizing a critical need in this community, the Association opened the Eighth Avenue Senior Center, which provides daily congregate meals, citizenship classes,

medical check-ups and screenings, monthly birthday parties, field trips and many other services.

Operating out of modest facilities but with exceptional heart and dedication, the center has a membership of almost 2,000 and offers services to over 160 senior members daily.

The centerpiece of this year's sixth anniversary commemoration is the Millennial Roundtable Celebration. Fulfilling an extraordinary and touching ceremony, tables will be organized with seating for 12 seniors who are each at least 84 years of age—totaling 1,000 years. For the first time, to commemorate the end of the century and the turn of the millennium, a Double Millennial Roundtable will be featured, with seating for 23 seniors who are at least 87 years of age and totaling 2,000 years of age.

A poet wrote, "I like spring, but it is too young. I like summer, but it is too proud. So I like best of all autumn, because its tone is mellow, its colors are richer, and it is tinged with a little sorrow. Its golden richness speaks not of the innocence of spring, nor the power of summer, but of the mellowness and kindly wisdom of approaching age."

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me when I commend the Eighth Avenue Senior Center, and the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association, for its work to ensure golden richness in the lives of our seniors.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2990, QUALITY CARE FOR THE UNINSURED ACT OF 1999, AND H.R. 2723, BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS MANAGED CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rigged rule for debate on the patients' bill of rights. Ever since this session began, I have been working with my colleagues to bring 'bipartisan patients' bill of rights to the floor for a vote. But now that Republicans have been forced to allow a vote on the bipartisan consensus managed care bill, they have written a rule designed to kill the measure.

Instead of providing a fair and open rule considering the patients' bill of rights, the Republican Leadership has stacked the deck by writing a rule that blends the managed care bill with a measure riddled with special interest "poison pills" designed to kill the measure, and that denies us the opportunity to offset any potential revenue losses from the measure.

The Republican Leadership is combining the bipartisan managed care bill with a so-called insurance access bill, which is not paid for. In addition, the Republican leadership is denying a bipartisan group of members the right to offer an amendment to offset the cost of the bill and be fiscally responsible.

If we can defeat this flawed rule, bipartisan advocates of managed care reform will return with a fair and open rule that will permit enactment of managed care reform. My constituents deserve patients' bill of rights. I urge my colleagues to vote down this rule and to support

real managed care reform and bipartisan patients' bill of rights.

HONORING THE RAMSEY FIRE DEPARTMENT ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Ramsey Fire Department on its 100th Anniversary. This volunteer unit is one of the finest in New Jersey and deserves the thanks and support of every resident of our community.

Volunteer firefighters are among the most dedicated public servants in our communities. They set aside their own convenience—indeed, their own safety—to protect the lives and property of their neighbors and ask nothing in return. Volunteer firefighters turn out to do their duty in the darkness of freezing winter nights and in the heat of suffocating summer days without hesitation.

The Ramsey Fire Department was established in 1899 with 32 original members. The new fire company made a \$25 deposit on their first fire engine, an 1885 Babcock Chemical Wagon purchased second-hand from the Rutherford Fire Department. The Dater family of Ramsey donated property near the railroad tracks for the first firehouse, built at a cost of \$197, and the Ramsey Fire Department was in business. The first alarm was a brush fire near the tracks in April and the first building fire followed in January 1900.

The department grew quickly during the early years of the century, soon adding a horse-drawn ladder wagon and going to motorized fire trucks in 1912. A modern pumper was added in 1927 and the Ladies Auxiliary was founded in 1935 with 23 charter members. Additional equipment was purchased in subsequent years and the Island Avenue fire station constructed in 1951 to accommodate the growing fleet. A substation in the form of a three-bay addition to the borough garage was added in the 1960s. The 1970s saw the formation of the Junior Fire Brigade to encourage young people to become involved and a conversion from the traditional "fire engine red" paint scheme on equipment to lime yellow.

The Ramsey Fire Department has twice received the Box 54 Unit Citation Award from the New Jersey-New York Volunteer Firemen's Association for daring rescues, once in 1975 and again in 1984. In 1981, the department found itself the victim of arson when fire destroyed the second floor of the Island Avenue building. The building was repaired and rededicated the next year.

Major renovations of the fire department headquarters on Island Avenue were completed in 1992, including a room to display antique fire apparatus, a new radio room, a chief officer's room, an office for administrative officers and a 150-foot radio communications tower. Since 1996, the headquarters building has been known as the Robert E. Litchult Fire Safety Building in honor of Litchult, who served a record 63 years with the department.

Responding to nationwide difficulties in recruiting volunteer firefighters, the department

in 1994 formed a Recruitment and Retention Program to solicit new members.

Throughout its long and distinguished history, the Ramsey Fire Department has protected both lives and property through professionalism, dedication and skill of its many members. The department has grown vastly in personnel, equipment and other resources. Today, it is among the finest firefighting organizations in the State of New Jersey. Members constantly train to improve performance in order to do their jobs as safely and efficiently as possible.

The Ramsey Fire Department has come a long way from its founding. Today's state-of-the-art fire engines and high-tech equipment put Ramsey on par with any other fire department in the region. But it takes more than equipment and buildings to run a fire department. It takes dedicated, hard-working individuals willing to put the safety and property of their neighbors first. People like President Ken Bell and Fire Chief George Sutherland and all the officers and firefighters of the Ramsey Fire Department deserve our most special thanks.

The Ramsey Fire Department was founded 100 years ago on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors. That principal has made the department a success and will continue to do so in the future.

I would like to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating the Ramsey Fire Department on 100 years of meritorious service to the community, and in paying tribute to the brave and dedicated firefighters who have sacrificed personal safety in response to the needs of others. All past and present members of this very professional "volunteer" fire department deserve our deepest thanks for their work on the behalf of our community.

THE SENIOR CITIZENS PROTECTION ACT

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to cut fraud and abuse in our Medicare system, restore balance in our health care system, and give us all a better quality of life. Federal, state, and local governments need more tools at their disposal to crack down on rampant health care fraud. Congress needs to empower law enforcement to preserve and protect Medicare, decrease the crime rate, and let each and every one of us feel safe and secure in our retirement years.

The Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General recently released startling information on their audit of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). According to the audit, the Medicare Program lost \$20 billion in fraud and improper payments in Fiscal Year 1997. What is unconscionable is that only \$4 billion was recovered.

A recently published Focus Group Study of Medicare Insurance Counselors found that most officials believe a significant amount of fraud exists and continues to undermine the Medicare program. In the study, many experts said HCFA took no action after being notified of fraud. The May 1998 study further cited that

HCFA did not have adequate systems and procedures in place to root out fraud.

A major reason health care fraud is at historic levels is because current law bars state officials from even investigating Medicare fraud. They are limited to investigating suspected fraud in the Medicaid. This creates an enforcement gap because an entity defrauding Medicaid is often linked to fraud in other federal health programs.

An example from my district on Long Island illustrates this predicament perfectly. A provider was suspected of defrauding Medicaid. The state and its Medicaid Fraud Control Unit began an investigation. That investigation spilled over into allegations of Medicare fraud and the state could not investigate because it lacked the requisite authority. Despite repeated requests from the state, the Federal Government did not investigate or prosecute the allegations. While the state was trying to wrest control of the investigation for the Federal Government, the provider billed nearly \$2 million. If the state had the power to investigate, some fraud could have been stopped and stolen money would have been recovered and returned to the government coffers.

My bill, the Senior Citizens Protection Act of 1999, will empower the states and their Medicaid Fraud Control Units by allowing them to investigate Medicare fraud cases when Medicaid fraud has been alleged.

A second reason health care fraud remains unchecked is because current law prohibits states from investigating patient abuse in assisted living and residential-care facilities. Currently, a state only has the authority to investigate patient abuse in facilities that receive Medicaid reimbursement, usually nursing facilities. Yet today, more and more of our friends and family reside in assisted living and other residential-care facilities. Normally, federal and local governments do not investigate suspected patient abuse in these non-traditional health care facilities and the state lacks the power to delve into these cases. The result is a high number of cases falling through the cracks.

My bill would authorize the states and the Medicaid Fraud Control Units to investigate these patient abuse cases in long-term care facilities.

The government should be doing more—much more—to combat fraud and abuse. "White collar" crimes in the health care industry can be stopped. The Senior Citizens Protection Act requires coordination of anti-fraud efforts, keeps our senior citizens safe, returns all recoveries to the Federal Government, and does not cost the Federal Government anything.

Our government should be given all the tools necessary to combat fraud in our health care system and give Americans the peace of mind that their moms and dads are well cared for in their retirement years. We need to ferret out providers who rip off the system, and Americans need to rest comfortably at night knowing our family members and friends receive the highest quality health care without the fear of being physically, mentally, or financially abused. I urge my colleagues to support the Senior Citizens Protection Act of 1999 because it will provide health care security to our seniors and restore their trust in the people who care for them from morning until night.

HONORING THE MADERA COLLEGE CENTER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Madera College Center for the State Center Community College District. The Board of Trustees for the college held a groundbreaking ceremony for the first permanent building on their campus on September 24, 1999.

The Madera Center has been in existence for approximately 15 years. The college offers a wide variety of programs and opportunities for students. The full-service campus includes a library, bookstore, distance learning classroom, cafeteria, and computer laboratories. Utilizing services and course catalogs from its sister institution, Reedley College, the Madera Community College Center is able to afford its students a choice of more than 40 Associate Degrees and Certificates of Achievement.

The building for which ground was broken will consist of a lecture hall, library, classrooms, laboratories and offices. It is projected that the facility will be completed by August 2000, allowing for the attendance of students for the fall 2000 semester. In addition, parking lots and play fields will be installed as a part of this \$12.7 million development project.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Madera College Center and its Board of Trustees, for their dedication to providing quality education to students in the Madera area. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Madera Center many more years of success and continued growth.

IN HONOR OF CAPT. CLELL NEIL AMMERMAN, U.S. NAVY (RET.)

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Capt. Clell Neil Ammerman, U.S. Navy (Ret.), who passed away last week.

Captain Ammerman had a long and distinguished career serving his country in the United States Navy. He graduated with honors from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1954 and quickly proved himself as a capable officer. In 1957, he commanded the USS *Ely*, one of the first ships to transit the new St. Lawrence Seaway. In 1958, he was assigned to the National Security Agency, and in 1961 received his master's degree in applied mathematics and physics.

Captain Ammerman returned to the sea, and in August 1964 was involved in the initial action in the Gulf of Tonkin as an officer aboard the USS *Oklahoma City*. In 1967, he completed his work in the field of nuclear weapons effects at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Livermore, California, for which he received the Joint Services Commendation Medal.

After another year at sea, Captain Ammerman served as Assistant to the Deputy Director, Research and Technology, ODDR&E. That stint earned him the Legion of

Merit for outstanding management of research and development programs. But a Navy man belongs to the sea, and in September 1971, Captain Ammerman assumed command of the USS *John S. McCain*. Between April and October 1972, Captain Ammerman actively engaged the enemy off the coast of the Republic of Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star with the Combat "V."

He then entered the academic life, serving as professor of naval science and commanding officer for the NROTC Unit at UCLA. In 1976, he again returned to sea, then moved to Newport, Rhode Island, in 1978 to command the Navy's prestigious Surface Warfare Officer's School. Finally, he served as Chief of Staff of Battle Force Seventh Fleet, homeported in Subic Bay, the Philippines.

In June of 1984, Captain Ammerman retired from the Navy and settled in Camarillo, California, which is in my district. Until 1995, he continued his relationship with the Navy through his work with naval contractors.

His wife of 20 years, Pamela, is national director of the Navy League of the United States. She has also served as my campaign manager for years. Aside from Pam, Captain Ammerman is survived by six children and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me for a moment of prayer for Capt. Clell Neil Ammerman, and in sending our condolences to Pam and all of his family.

IN HONOR OF THE IRONBOUND
COMMUNITY CORPORATION FOR
30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO NEW-
ARK, NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Ironbound Community Cor-

poration as it celebrates its 30th anniversary of service and dedication to the people of the "Ironbound" and East Ward sections of Newark, NJ.

Serving one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse neighborhoods in the State, the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) has been a progressive and vocal force in the community since it opened its door in 1969. It has led the way in addressing the particular needs and concerns faced by a multicultural and multilingual community.

For 30 years, the ICC has planned, implemented, and operated a number of vital programs for residents of the Ironbound. From a nationally accredited preschool child care program to an extensive "Meals on Wheels" delivery service for seniors to environmental clean-ups to GED, English, and college courses, the ICC has worked diligently to improve the quality of life in Newark's Ironbound.

This weekend, led by President Susanna Stradiotti and Executive Director Joseph Della Fave, the ICC will commemorate its 30th anniversary by honoring three members of the community who embody the intent and purpose of the organization and three individuals who directly benefited from ICC's various programs.

This year's three honorees are: Patricia Moreira, Preschool Teacher for 30 years at the Ironbound Children's Center; June Kruszewski, resident of the community for 72 years, volunteer for 20 years, co-chair of the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, and member of the ICC Board of Trustees; and, Joseph Rendeiro, principal of the Hawkins St. School and former teacher at the Ironbound Adult Education Project.

This year's ICC Success Story honorees are: Rosa Coneicao, graduate of the ICC Adult Education Project, Director of Work First at Essex County College, Fellow at Leadership Newark, and member of the ICC Board of Trustees; Fred Linhares, graduate of the Ironbound Children's Center, President of the Portuguese American Congress, and Municipal

Judge; Ed Norton, graduate of the ICC Community School and Owner/Operator of the Dalfen Printing Co.

For its unwavering commitment to the Ironbound and East Ward sections of Newark, and for its continued leadership in community service, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Ironbound Community Center on its 30th anniversary.

YWCA OF COBB COUNTY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 7, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor today to recognize the YWCA, and particularly the YWCA of Cobb County for its efforts to combat violence, by celebrating a "Week Without Violence," from October 17-23.

The YWCA "Week Without Violence" is a public awareness campaign that seeks to advocate practical and sustainable alternatives to violence in our homes, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Since it was launched in 1995, the YWCA "Week Without Violence" has grown from a grassroots initiative into a global movement with women, men, and children participating in events throughout all 50 states and in more than 20 countries on six continents.

I especially applaud the YWCA of Cobb County for its efforts to bring together people from throughout the community to fight violence against all people, regardless of age, race, income, or sex. The grassroots efforts are an excellent example of Americans joining together to fight for what is right about our great nation. By devoting time and effort to this cause YWCAs across America are demonstrating a widespread desire to improve our communities